

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1524

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS ALGIERS 2724

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ELTN, AG

SUBJ: IRON ORE PROJECT AND RELATED NEW RAIL LINE IN ALGERIA

REF: ALGIERS A-53

1. PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE IN A SPEECH NOVEMBER 27 AT THE PROVINCIAL TOWN OF TINDOUF (EXTREME WESTERN ALGERIA) ANNOUNCED THAT ALGERIA WILL SOON BEGIN WORK ON EXPLOITING THE IRON ORE DEPOSITS AT GARA DJEBILET. THE PRESIDENT SAID ALSO THAT A RAIL LINE FROM GARA DJEBILET TO THE NORTHWEST COAST OF ALGERIA WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED TO TRANSPORT THE IRON ORE TO THE COAST (PROBABLY MOSTAGANEM). ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF THE MINES WOULD BE TEN TO TWELVE MILLION TONS PER YEAR. THE RAIL LINE WILL COVER A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY ONE THOUSAND MILES. CURRENT LINE FROM COAST TO BECHAR (APPROXIMATELY TWO HUNDRED MILES) IS NARROW GAUGE AND THUS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR IORN ORE TRANSPORT WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE IRON ORE DEPOSITS AT GARA DJEBILET IS INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT FOUR-YEAR PLAN BUT NOT THE RAILROAD PROJECT, WHICH IS IN ADDITION TO THE RAIL PROJECTS MENTIONED IN REPAIR.PARKER

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